# Purchasing an Electronic Health Record System

**Optimizing CRC Screening Performance Using the EHR**

- ✓ EHRs must have the capacity to receive results from other EHR systems, using searchable data fields. For this reason, providers should be wary of purchasing a stand-alone EHR system.
- ✓ When trying to optimize colorectal cancer screening performance, certain functional criteria should be included in the RFP. All of the criteria listed are also included in the CCHIT 2009 Ambulatory criteria, so any system with CCHIT certification should have the functionality to maximize CRC screening.
- ✓ The online tool, called My Family Health Portrait, allows the patient to collect information in a standard way that is easy for family members to share and for providers to use. It can be accessed at www.familyhistory.hhs.gov, and has the potential to be shared electronically with EHRs and personalized health record systems. Vendors should be asked about the potential to interface with this tool.

| Reliable Sources of EHR Ratings | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Source of HER Ratings** | **Type of Access Available** | **Website** |
| CCHIT | Free Public Access | www.cchit.org |
| AAFP | Membership required for selected links | www.centerforhit.org |
| AC Group | Purchasable reports | www.acgroup.org |
| ACP | Membership required for selected links | http://www.acponline.org/running_practice/technology/ehr/partner_program/ |
| KLAS | Purchasable reports | www.klasresearch.com/EHR_software |
| CTS Guides | Registration required | www.ctsguides.com/practicepartner.asp |

Adapted from *The Use of Electronic Health Records in Optimizing the Delivery of Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care* by Randa Sifir, MD; Mona Sarfaty, MD; Smiriti Sharma

# A Typical Timeline for Selecting and Installing an Electronic Health Records System

The acquisition and establishment of a new practice-wide system will not happen overnight. It usually takes over a year to complete the steps that are required.

- Set goals and objectives (1 mo)
- Practice analysis: Process identification (1 mo)
- Practice analysis: Process analysis (2-3 mo)
- Requirements specification (1 mo)
- Product evaluation (1-2 mo)
- Vendor analysis (1 mo)
- Create and submit Request for Proposal (1-2
- Contract negotiation (1 mo)
- Workflow analysis (1-2 mo)
- Re-engineering (1-2 mo)
- Installation and testing (1 mo)
- Training (1 mo)
- Go live until normal patient flow returns (2-3 mo)

Start: Month 1

Finish: Month 14-16

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